

My apologies

Von: **tutor.politicalphilo** (tutor.politicalphilo@conted.ox.ac.uk)
Gesendet: Dienstag, 5. Mai 2009 19:43:18
An: kgalalae@hotmail.com

Dear Kevin,

I am sorry for having given you such a negative feedback on your post on the Hobbes and Locke forum. I should have mentioned and stressed all the many valuable ideas and features in your message. I am sorry for not having done so.

I have posted my public apologies in the forum and I just wanted to add a couple of things that are perhaps more appropriate in an email.

The first is about how I have come to see you. You have struck me as a very able, enthusiastic, brilliant, generous and confident student. Perhaps I have unconsciously made the mistake of assuming that you were so broad-shouldered that I could cut the niceties and praises and go straight to criticisms and challenges. That was obviously awkward.

The second thing is about me. I am not very generous in praising people. It is in part a feature of my character and in part the result of the way I have been educated: positive reinforcement, encouragement and praise were not the praxis in my university. We were happy when we managed to avoid harsh criticism. I certainly do not want to commend this method of teaching and I completely agree with you that pointing out the positive feature and strong points in students' work is important and a more effective teaching practice. I try to do so, but I still sometimes have my lapses and unwittingly re-enact (bad) examples. I am not offering this as an excuse, but as a useful piece of information about myself, as a clue to help to interpret my way of (mis-)communicating.

I really hope you will accept my apologies and that you will continue to be such a great presence in the class: you are a driving force in the course.

Best wishes

Giovanni